Gauge conversion in Tamil Nadu

557. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the broad gauge conversion process in Tamil Nadu was neglected and the pace of progress in case of works taken up was dead slow; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that there has been a huge regional imbalace between Tamil Nadu and other States in taking up and executing the broad gauge conversion in as much as there has been a huge imbalace of broad gauge conversion works still in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

Freight loading of coal and iron ore

558. SHRI SUREDNRA LATH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) how much freight loading was made of coal and iron ore in last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that wagons/rakes are not available to cater the increasing demand; and

(c) what action is being taken or contemplated by his Ministry to meet the increased demand for loading for transportation of iron ore and coal in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) The details is as under:—

(In million tonnes)

	(Revenue earning coal)	Iron Ore
2003-04	251.75	81:42
2004-05	271.40	92.33
2005-06	294.25	108.44